

COVID-19 Food Supply Chain Status Report #36

February 2 2022

New information is in BLUE

- Health Canada defines “food insecurity” as *the inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of **food** in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so.*

Green- System functioning acceptably on its own, even if there are some shortages. Critical food supplies are available but may not include full options of choice

Yellow - Shortage of resources (labour supplies, utilities) is causing interruptions in the supply chain resulting in food supply shortages. (e.g. there are some shortages of important food supplies)

Red - The retail distribution systems can no longer function normally and there are significant shortages of critical food supplies (or a complete breakdown of food supply/distribution has occurred at a community or regional level)

Indicates current level of stress on each stage of the food supply system as it relates to food security in Alberta

Status	Area	Updates
	Primary Production	• Feedlots report that they are unable to ship their fed cattle south. Loads of cattle are being held back, with subsequent loads being cancelled. • Shipping cattle through BC, Idaho or Saskatchewan is not feasible because a 10-hour unload or 10-hour break is required for those routes. • Alberta Cattle feeders are in dire need of feed due to rail supply issues and feed destined for feedlots stuck at the border. • Comments on social media indicate that Montana producers are unable to get feed that they have ordered from Alberta. • A Warner area feedlot posted that they have only five days of feed remaining and that their feed was stuck on the other side of the border. • Poultry and swine industry groups reported no issues related to the border issue.
	Food Processing	• Outbreak situations are occurring in 5-7 Alberta meat processing facilities • We are seeing some operational impacts in our meat processing plants in the form of slowing of line speeds but no shutdowns or major impacts ▪ Food processors are lobbying the federal government to increase the existing cap on the number of temporary foreign workers to 30% of their workforce and improve application-processing time. • The meat industry, and especially the beef sector, is experiencing very high demand which they struggle to keep

Food Supply Chain Working Group: Leah Sheffield(lead), Shiferaw Adilu, Katherine Altman, Brad Andres, Valerie Bohaychuk, Cody Cunningham, Jeewani Fernando, Michelle Follensbee, Laureen Kennedy, Keith Lehman, Brent McEwan, Lisa Morin, Davin Robertson, Jeannette Sarac, Chuanliang (Johnny) Su, Gerard Bos, Margurite Thiessen, Michael Vadnais (AFSC); Karen Wronko (CSS), Tina Maslyk (Health); Michael Kahn (Municipal Affairs); Margaret Lange (JEI); Frank Smart (Labour & Immigration); Alan Windhorst (Transportation); Bonnie Chiu (Secretariat)

COVID-19 Food Supply Chain Status Report #36

February 2 2022

New information is in BLUE

		up with due to shortages of both labour and packaging material
●	Warehouse and Distribution	Active outbreaks at 1 Amazon warehouse
●	Retail and Foodservice	- The Retail Council of Canada has issued a statement that there is no shortage of food in Canada, but there is a delay. - Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers reports that there are some challenges in terms of employee absenteeism everywhere in the food supply chain- producers, processors, packers, wholesalers and distributors, on top of the labor shortage. - According to Statistics Canada, the cost of food prices in December 2021 increased 6.4 per cent year over year for food purchased from stores in Alberta - Fresh or frozen beef up 24.1 per cent, - Fresh or frozen chicken up 8.3 per cent, - Prices for fresh and frozen pork increased 12.0 per cent, - Processed meat prices that includes bacon were up 8.4 per cent, - Edible fats and oils were up 22.0 per cent, - Fresh fruits were up 6.5 per cent and - Fresh vegetables were up 5.7 per cent. - Strong demand, supply chain disruptions, extreme weather in North America in 2021, energy costs, transportation costs and rising wages due to tightening labor markets are all contributing to higher food prices.
●	Transportation	- The latest from 511 last night indicated that the highway was still closed at the Coutts border as a result of disruptions and blockades. - The average daily trucks and loaded truck containers crossing Coutts/Sweetgrass from Alberta is 800. - There are reports that emails are going out to farmers to block roads across Canada at 12 noon on Feb 3 for 3 hours. - Several tow truck companies are refusing to assist RCMP to remove the blockade.

Food Supply Chain Working Group: Leah Sheffield(lead), Shiferaw Adilu, Katherine Altman, Brad Andres, Valerie Bohaychuk, Cody Cunningham, Jeewani Fernando, Michelle Follensbee, Laureen Kennedy, Keith Lehman, Brent McEwan, Lisa Morin, Davin Robertson, Jeannette Sarac, Chuanliang (Johnny) Su, Gerard Bos, Margurite Thiessen, Michael Vadnais (AFSC); Karen Wronko (CSS), Tina Maslyk (Health); Michael Kahn (Municipal Affairs); Margaret Lange (JEI); Frank Smart (Labour & Immigration); Alan Windhorst (Transportation); Bonnie Chiu (Secretariat)

COVID-19 Food Supply Chain Status Report #36

February 2 2022

New information is in BLUE

		- There is a bridge blockade on Hwy 2 between Standoff and Fort MacLeod at Blue Bridge. Blood Tribe officials and RCMP are on scene rerouting traffic. - Some farm equipment has reportedly bypassed the RCMP checkpoint and joined the blockade. Possibly a standoff is developing. - There are reports on Twitter of trucks blocking roads into other towns in the area. - As of January 15, 2022, unvaccinated Canadian truck drivers entering Canada face pre-entry, arrival and Day 8 testing, as well as quarantine requirements. - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated foreign national truck drivers, coming to Canada from the US by land, will be directed back to the United States. - Domestic federally regulated workers, including truck drivers, may also be facing a vaccine mandate. - Estimates are for 10,000 – 15,000 cross border drivers to leave the industry (on top of the current shortage estimate of 20,000 drivers). - Industry vaccine rates for cross border drivers were estimated at 74% and domestic drivers at 82% in December
	Import and Export Markets	- A convoy has blocked the Coutts border crossing into Montana preventing imports and exports by road. - Rail transport does not appear to be affected. - Canada's cross-border vaccine mandate, followed by the US mandate on January 22 is expected to have a significant effect on import and export markets.
	Support Services (e.g. PPE, labs, equipment, sanitation, waste mgmt.)	<u>Rapid tests kits</u> - There is a shortage of rapid test kits throughout the world. - Kits are being prioritized for healthcare settings and schools. - Issue raised: It appears that Alberta and Ontario governments offloaded distribution of rapid test kits to local chamber of commerce and this did not work well for essential services such as retail grocery in prioritizing and distributing these test kits. Ontario has realized the issue and is working on new approaches for grocery.

Food Supply Chain Working Group: Leah Sheffield(lead), Shiferaw Adilu, Katherine Altman, Brad Andres, Valerie Bohaychuk, Cody Cunningham, Jeewani Fernando, Michelle Follensbee, Laureen Kennedy, Keith Lehman, Brent McEwan, Lisa Morin, Davin Robertson, Jeannette Sarac, Chuanliang (Johnny) Su, Gerard Bos, Margurite Thiessen, Michael Vadnais (AFSC); Karen Wronko (CSS), Tina Maslyk (Health); Michael Kahn (Municipal Affairs); Margaret Lange (JEI); Frank Smart (Labour & Immigration); Alan Windhorst (Transportation); Bonnie Chiu (Secretariat)

COVID-19 Food Supply Chain Status Report #36

February 2 2022

New information is in BLUE

		•
	Consumers	• Food prices are already on an upward trend and now we can expect further increase in food prices due to the border blockade • Product shortages and delays raise concerns for areas in the province that are semi-rural and remote where there is often only one grocery store. • Product price increases- members are reporting receiving cost increases of 25, 30, and 40 percent for some products.

Southern Alberta Border Blockade

- No trucks are currently crossing the border at Coutts; however, there are no reports of rail traffic being impacted.
- Some trucks have redirected via borders in BC or Manitoba, but this is adding significant cost and time.
- Primary impacts at this time appear to be in shipments of fed cattle that cannot be delivered to the US as scheduled.
- Some shipments of feed to Alberta livestock operations have also been impacted with one operator noting that they have only 5 days of feed currently on-hand.
- No reports of significant food shortages at this time.

Vaccines and Rapid testing

- There is a shortage of rapid test kits throughout the world.
- Kits are being prioritized for healthcare settings and schools.
- Eligibility for third dose has been expanded.

Meat Inspector Resource Sharing with CFIA

- Developed between AF and CFIA to enable AF meat inspectors to provide inspection service in federally inspected slaughter facilities if federal inspectors became ill or required to self-isolate.
- The updated agreement has been signed.
- Five provincial inspectors are being trained to work at Olymel.

Business Resumption Protocol – COVID-19 Food Facility Business Continuity in Alberta

- Developed with AF, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and CFIA to clarify roles and responsibilities to enable a food processor to resume business after a COVID outbreak.
- It has been updated to reflect lessons learned and reframing to a business “continuity” protocol
- AHS has requested further revisions.
- The revised agreement has been fully executed and signed by IGR, CFIA, AF, and AHS.

FPT Update

- FPT DM- Internal Trade is having a retreat in February and trade is priority on the agenda.

Food Supply Chain Working Group: Leah Sheffield(lead), Shiferaw Adilu, Katherine Altman, Brad Andres, Valerie Bohaychuk, Cody Cunningham, Jeewani Fernando, Michelle Follensbee, Laureen Kennedy, Keith Lehman, Brent McEwan, Lisa Morin, Davin Robertson, Jeannette Sarac, Chuanliang (Johnny) Su, Gerard Bos, Margurite Thiessen, Michael Vadnais (AFSC); Karen Wronko (CSS), Tina Maslyk (Health); Michael Kahn (Municipal Affairs); Margaret Lange (JEI); Frank Smart (Labour & Immigration); Alan Windhorst (Transportation); Bonnie Chiu (Secretariat)

COVID-19 Food Supply Chain Status Report #36

February 2 2022

New information is in BLUE

- FPT AG Regulatory ADMS are having a strategic planning retreat. The first is Feb 4th. There are 7 subgroups under this one.
- On December 13th the Federal Minister of Transport, announced that he would be hosting a national supply chain summit on January 31st. The Alberta Minister of Transportation is one of two provincial and territorial ministers invited to attend.
- Re-appointment of federal minister of Agriculture and Food, Bibeau, is expected to maintain continuity for sector

Food Supply Chain Working Group: Leah Sheffield(lead), Shiferaw Adilu, Katherine Altman, Brad Andres, Valerie Bohaychuk, Cody Cunningham, Jeewani Fernando, Michelle Follensbee, Laureen Kennedy, Keith Lehman, Brent McEwan, Lisa Morin, Davin Robertson, Jeannette Sarac, Chuanliang (Johnny) Su, Gerard Bos, Margurite Thiessen, Michael Vadnais (AFSC); Karen Wronko (CSS), Tina Maslyk (Health); Michael Kahn (Municipal Affairs); Margaret Lange (JEI); Frank Smart (Labour & Immigration); Alan Windhorst (Transportation); Bonnie Chiu (Secretariat)